

Melodrama Premiere Set For Friday in Park City

Premiere of "The Night Operator," an original melodrama opening at 8 p.m. Friday in the Silver Wheel Theatre, Park City, will be a benefit performance for preservation and restoration of the Heber Tabernacle, Heber City, Utah.

Possible future use for the Tabernacle will be as a hall dedicated to the performing arts, making the benefit doubly appropriate, according to the Committee for Preservation of the Tabernacle.

Premiere Tickets

Tickets for the premiere are available at 1320 Foothill Drive, Salt Lake City; the Silver Wheel Theatre in Park City; and from Don Barker, Heber City.

"The Night Operator" is a melodrama set to music, with book and lyric by Grace Grether and Josephine C. Fabian, musical score by Ethel Hogan. The production is being directed by Gene Pack.

The show is set in a mining town, Lark City, at the turn of the century and is based loosely on historical facts and local myths.

Central Character

Central figure in the plot is Lulu Belle, the night telephone switchboard operator who is the communication heart of the town, all the intimate facts and news of its people flowing through her switchboard. It has a five-alarm climax—a town-consuming fire. Many historical incidents of Park City, including the fire, have been woven into the melodrama.

The show will also be presented Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Silver Wheel, and continue each Friday and Saturday thereafter through July and August.

To the Editor:

As we pay tribute to the memory of our pioneers, the final hour approaches for the citizens of Wasatch to make their opinions felt in a matter of much more than passing significance. The announced intention of razing the valley's outstanding landmark, the stake tabernacle, must be carefully examined by a responsible citizenry.

On the face of it, the construction of a new building with its increase in comfort at the expense of the old would seem to be a desirable undertaking. But in a day when too much comfort and subsequent complacency are gnawing at the very roots of our culture, is it proper for us to swim with the tide to the extent of destroying the valley's outstanding symbol of the very qualities which could carry us through to true progress in the improvement of this world? Much of the historical evidence of the rugged character of our valley's pioneers goes with the felling of that structure. How well-known are the great sacrifices and physical efforts that went into the construction of our tabernacle? The rock used in the entire building was wrested from an immense quarry of sandstone above town. With hand-made tools and back-

breaking labor, each piece was pryed out, cut and chipped to match, lifted by hand onto worn wagons drawn by tired horses, driven by weary but triumphant men to Heber, where, with prayerful petition, they built their tabernacle and dedicated it to God.

There is little time for contemplating, but isn't the observance of July 24th a bit of a farce when we pay lip service to our pioneers while making plans to raze the prize fruit of their labors? We teach reverence and pride in our heritage and destroy their masterpiece. Our ancestors labored to make the desert blossom and we erase the green oasis in our city to "replace" it with what? Blacktop? And a trend-of-the-times building with all the charm of a supermarket?

Hope Murdock Mohr